

March 19, 2008

States and Tribes collect multiple types of data (e.g., physical, chemical, biological, toxicological) to assess attainment of Aquatic Life (ALU) and other beneficial uses, as per Clean Water Act requirements. To make an assessment decision, each data type can be reviewed and “independently applied” against applicable numeric or narrative water quality standards. If at least one data type shows non-attainment of standards, the water resource can be judged as impaired, i.e., not attaining the use. Alternatively, the multiple data types can be interpreted collectively, with more emphasis (i.e., weight) given to the types that provide the most reliable and relevant information toward the assessment. This approach is sometimes called a “weight of evidence” approach.

Notes:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.